

REMARKS

Claims 7, 11, and 14 remain pending in this application. Claims 7, 11 and 14 have been amended to be in independent form. Claims 1-6, 9-10, 12-13 and 15-17 are cancelled by this response. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirofumi (JP 2001-013681) in view of Janky (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0176937). Claims 1-3, 16 and 17 are cancelled by this response. In view of the cancellation of claims 1-3, 16, and 17 it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 4, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirofumi (JP Patent Publication No. 2001-013681) in view of Janky (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0176937) and further in view of Kavouras et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,347,618). Claim 4 is cancelled by this response. In view of the cancellation of claim 4 it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirofumi (JP Patent Publication No. 2001-013681) in view of Janky (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0176937) and further in view of Valaskovic et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0190203). Claim 6 is cancelled by this response. In view of the cancellation of claim 6 it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn

Rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirofumi (JP Patent Publication No. 2001-013681) in view of Janky (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0176937) in view of Kavouras et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0151988) and further in view of

Katayama (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0151988). Claim 9 is cancelled by this response. In view of the cancellation of claim 9 it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirofumi (JP Patent Publication No. 2001-013681) in view of Janky (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0176937) in further view of Brown (U.S. Patent No. 6,788,753). Claim 10 is cancelled by this response. In view of the cancellation of claim 10 it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirofumi (JP Patent Publication No. 2001-013681) in view of Bongfeldt (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0045461) and further in view of Nuijten (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,299). Claims 12 and 13 are cancelled by this response. In view of the cancellation of claims 12 and 13 it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn

Rejection of Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirofumi (JP Patent Publication No. 2001-013681) in view of Bongfeldt (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0045461 A1) in view of Nuijten (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,299) and further in view of Brown (U.S. Patent No. 6,788,753 B1). Claims 15 is cancelled by this response. In view of the cancellation of claim 15, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 7, 11 and 14 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Claims 7, 11 and 14 have each been

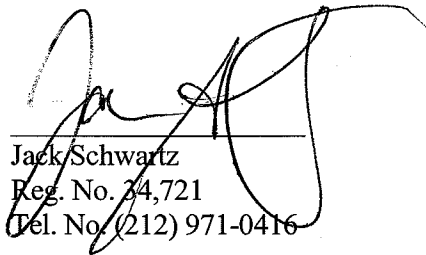
amended to include the limitations of the base and any intervening claims and it is respectfully submitted these claims should now be allowed.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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July 9, 2009